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Federal Communications Commission
Chairman Kevin J. Martin
Commissioner Michael J. Capps
Commissioner Jonathan S. Adelstein
Commissioner Deborah Taylor Tate
Commissioner Robert McDonald

FILED/ACCEPTED

DEC 14 2007

Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary

RE: Docket 06-121, proposal to change media ownership rules

Sirs and Madam:

We strongly oppose your efforts to allow companies that already own one or more media outlets in a town, city, county to purchase more outlets; we believe that democracy depends on a free and diversified press. Many points of view better inform citizens. A vibrant local press is essential to democratic community.

When radio, television (broadcast and cable) and Internet are owned by a handful of companies our news and other programming is funneled to a very small group of people who decide what to show and tell. It turns programming into propaganda. This is what happens in countries that are led by dictators. If we wish to remain a free and democratic society we must demonstrate our diversity in our media.

We do not believe that our press is in danger of becoming extinct unless we support your proposal. The press will survive; it will simply look different. We can let it shake out without selling out. There should be no hurry to act. In fact, when government officials strive to push a measure through without paying attention to citizens, when they are in too big a hurry, we see a red warning flag that something is so wrong with the measure that it cannot withstand careful scrutiny, deliberation and debate.

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Do not proceed with Docket 06-121. Repeal the proposal.

Yours truly,

Barbara Gorkoff 1565 Bellevue Ave.
Hillsborough CA
97610

Cc: Senator Barbara Boxer
Senator Dianne Feinstein
President George W. Bush
Rep. Tom Lantos



Ms. Barbara Gorkoff
1565 Bellevue Ave.
Hillsborough, CA 94010

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December 3, 2007

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DEC 14 2007

Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary

To: FCC
Fax: (866) 418-0232
Subject: Comment on proposed change to the Newspaper/Broadcast Cross-Ownership Rule
Reference: Docket 06-121

Dear Sirs,

I want to express my strongest disapproval of changes to the Newspaper/Broadcast Cross-Ownership Rule, proposed by FCC chairman Kevin Martin.

The FCC is mandated to serve the best interests of the American people. Chairman Martin, by proposing these changes to the Newspaper/Broadcast Cross-Ownership Rule, is not acting in accord with his mandate. Instead he is serving the interests of large, powerful corporations who wish to consolidate media ownership for their own aggrandizement. It is bad for democracy. Democracy is more important than corporate capitalism. Chairman Martin must be informed of this fact.

These proposed changes are an obvious give-away to the most powerful media corporations in the country. Moreover, the stealth by which these changes are enacted reveals inherent dishonesty and falsehood. His fellow commissioners on the FCC, Michael Copps and Jonathan Adelstein, rightly critique every aspect of these proposals, underlining the "grossly insufficient" timetable for public comment. I've read their rebuttal; I hold with their views. As commissioners Copps and Adelstein point out, Congress and the American people want thoughtful and deliberate rulemaking, "... not an alarming rush to judgment characterized by insultingly short notices for public hearings, inadequate time for public comment, flawed studies and a tainted peer review process ..."

I urge you to lay these proposed rule changes aside right away, and to abandon forever the processes by which changes to the rule are being attempted.

William Joyce
2050 Meridian Avenue
South Pasadena, CA.

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Alice Q Howard
1487 Crooked Mile Court
Placerville, California 95667
aqhoward@d-web.com

DEC 14 2007

Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary

5 December 2007

The Honorable Kevin J. Martin, Chair
Commissioners Copps, Adelstein, Tate, and McDowell
Federal Communications Commission

Fax: 1-866-418-0232

Re: Docket 06-121, Cross-Ownership Proposal

I am writing to register my very strong opposition to your cross-ownership proposal and to the rushed process associated with its promulgation. The time allowed for commenting is extremely limited and public hearings have been hurriedly called. This is an unacceptable and unreasonable perversion of an open process that should lean toward protection of the public interest.

"An informed citizenry is the bulwark of a democracy...." These well-known words have been attributed to founding father Thomas Jefferson. Whether or not he actually said them, they capture a theme important in Jefferson's writings—and important to democracy. This proposal violates that principle.

This cross-ownership proposal could instigate a frenzy of mergers to combine broadcast, cable, newspaper, and even Internet Service Providers in a single market. Even if it is true that only the "largest markets" would be affected, as has been claimed, the largest 20 account for over 43% of U.S. households and over 120 million Americans. But this characterization is not true because the proposal also permits a newspaper-broadcast combination in any market in the country.

Because of recent events, confidence is deservedly now very low that the FCC will carry out its mission of ensuring "competition, localism and diversity" in media, thereby protecting the public interest. The FCC has refused to make public surveys that contradict its stated positions. It has failed adequately to address the harmful effects of consolidation on local programming and, in particular, on broadcast stations owned by women or minorities.

The cross-over proposal seems to be another step in restricting access to a diversity of opinion and information, thereby making it ever more difficult to be a informed citizen. Recently we have seen other actions that also restrict access to varied opinions and alternative sources of information, such as the postal rate increase that unfairly affects *small* publications more than the likes of Time-Warner, newspapers that refuse to print advertisements contrary to their editorial leanings, and even Internet Service Providers that refuse to distribute (non-pornographic) material of which they disapprove.

It is time to remember that our government is of the PEOPLE, by the PEOPLE, and for the PEOPLE, and not for media conglomerates where all too many commissioners head for life after the FCC.

Very truly yours,

Alice Q. Howard
Alice Q. Howard

cc: The White House, Senator Harry Reid, Speaker Nancy Pelosi, Senator Dianne Feinstein,
Senator Barbara Boxer, Senator Byron Dorgan.

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Docket 06-121

December 2, 2007

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DEC 14 2007

The Honorable Kevin J. Martin
Chairman, Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street SW
Washington, D. C. 20554

Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary

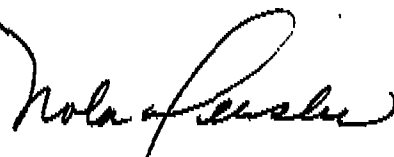
Dear Chairman Martin:

I strongly oppose loosening the current rules of ownership concerning the number of radio and TV stations that a company can own in a city, the number of radio stations it can own nationally, and the prohibition of cross ownership of radio and TV stations in a single city. Any of the proposed changes would enable a few large conglomerates to own even more radio and television stations in a given area than they do now, thus displacing additional local media outlets and effectively wiping out diversity.

We can already blame media consolidation for the decline in quality and quantity of local news, the dearth of broadcasting ownership by minorities and women, and the homogenization of programming on both TV and radio. Relaxing the current rules of ownership would only make things worse.

Our democracy depends on all citizens' having access to information from diverse, competitive and independent sources. Please listen to the people, not the media corporations, and hold the line against any further consolidation of our media.

Sincerely,



Nola Denston

75 Sunset Cove Rd

Harpwell, Me 04079

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Docket 06-121

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Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary

>Dear Commissioner McDowell;

>

>I am alarmed to discover that the Federal Communications Commission

>is considering

>relaxing its rules in order to allow a company to own both a newspaper and a

>television or radio station in the same city. Freedom of reporting

>is not helped

>by this action!

>

>I urge the FCC to maintain its traditional rules, and to be vigilant against

>possible monopolistic control by single companies.

>

>Sincerely,

>

>Peter Grant

>1614 S 116

>Bristol, VT 05443

>802 453-2278

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